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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Eromaki  
Application No. 09/864,925

Filed: May 23, 2001

For: PATTERN BLOCKS IN TREAD OF A  
TYRE

Examiner: Not yet assigned

Date: November 21, 2001

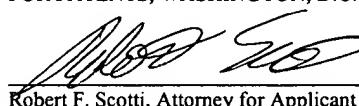
Art Unit: 3617

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper and the documents referred to as being attached or enclosed herewith are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on November 21, 2001 as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Box Patent Application, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231.

  
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Robert F. Scotti, Attorney for Applicant

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

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Sir:

Listed on the accompanying form PTO-1449 and enclosed herewith are several English-language and non-English-language documents. The following is a short summation, in English, of the relevance of German documents DE-39 43 014 and DE-35 40 669:

**DE-39 43 014** discloses blocks on a tire provided with angulated slits or lamellas within the blocks, but specifically the publication concerns the form of the edges of the blocks. According to the figures of the publication, the spacing between the corners of lamellas is, however, so long that the webs cannot be surface tear points in accordance to our invention. The dimensions of the webs between the corners of the lamellas are not described, and nothing like surface tear points are mentioned in the publication. In general the distance between the lamellas is 5 mm according to the publication [column 7, line 32], which makes the presence of any surface tear points impossible.

A partial translation is as follows:

*Claim 1:* "Air tire, characterized in that the tire profile (1) comprises three or more block rows (7, 8, 9), which are provided with at least two main grooves (2, 3) extending in the peripheral direction, and in the transversal direction main grooves (4, 5) which extend between the peripheral main grooves (2, 3), and transversal main grooves (6) extending in the width direction from the outer peripheral main grooves towards the sides of the tire, as well as a plurality of lamellas (10, 11) arranged in each of the blocks (7a, 8a, 9a) in the block rows (7, 8, 9), whereupon the edge section of each of the blocks extending in the width direction of the tire is provided with at least three sharp projections (7d, 8d), these sharp projections having a distance therebetween in the peripheral direction of the tire."

*Column 7, line 32:* "Distance between the lamellas: 5.0 mm;".

**DE-35 40 669** discloses blocks with undulating fine slits. According to the figures, drawn by hand, there might be some kind of webs or not – the proportions in the different areas of the figures are quite too deviating from each other – between these fine slits. In the publication it is not tried to obtain any web, e.g. because the supposed web points do not even have any reference numbers. The publication does neither mention anything about the dimensions of the webs, nor any surface tear points, and accordingly, a person skilled in the art could not and would not suppose such formations to be present.

A partial translation is as follows:

*Claim 1:* "An air tire for vehicles provided with a tread surface profile having blocks, whereupon these blocks are provided with undulating fine slits (lamellas), characterized in that the amplitude of the waves in the center of the blocks is greater than in the edge areas of the blocks, when compared."

Applicants respectfully request that these documents be listed as references cited on the issued patent.

Applicants filed this Information Disclosure Statement before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits. However, if the Patent Office determines that a fee is required for Applicants to file this Information Disclosure Statement, please charge any such fees, or credit

overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4550. A **duplicate** copy of this Information Disclosure Statement is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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